

**In the Claims**

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please cancel claims 15-26, 41 and 42 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 45-54.

1-26. Cancelled.

27. (Previously presented) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal wherein the stored gain characteristics comprise at least one impulse response and the step of applying a gain characteristic to the input signal comprises applying a stored impulse response to the input signal.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23 in which the gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal is determined in response to a manual input.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27 in which an interpolation between two or more impulse responses is made and applied to the input signal.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29 in which a manual input is used to select the impulse responses to be applied.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

32. (Previously presented) Apparatus for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising:

means for storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

means for repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

means for determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

means for applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal wherein the means for storing gain characteristics comprises one impulse response, and means for applying a stored impulse response to the input signal.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32 including a manual input for a gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal.

34. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 32 including means for interpolating between two or more impulse responses before applying the interpolated response to the input signal.

35. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 34 including a manual input to select the impulse response to be applied.

36. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 32 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

37. (Previously presented) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal in response to a manual input; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

39. (Previously presented) Apparatus for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising:

means for storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

means for repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

means for determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal in response to a manual input; and

means for applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal.

40. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 39 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously presented) A method for applying an impulse response to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

storing data representing a plurality of impulse responses relating to a plurality of characteristics of a reference device;

using a manual input to select an impulse response to be applied to an input signal; and applying the impulse response to the input signal.

44. (Previously presented) Apparatus for applying an impulse response to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

means for storing data representing a plurality of characteristics of a reference device; characteristics of a reference device; a manual input to select an impulse response to be applied to an input signal; and means for applying the impulse response to the input signal.

45. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal; determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal;

wherein the stored gain characteristics comprise at least one impulse response and the step of applying a gain characteristic to the input signal comprises applying a stored impulse response to the input signal.

46. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal; determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal;

wherein the gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal is determined in response to a manual input.

47. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal;

wherein an interpolation between two or more impulse responses is made and applied to the input signal.

48. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal;

wherein a manual input is used to select the impulse responses to be applied.

49. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal;

wherein the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

50. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal;

wherein the stored gain characteristics comprise at least one impulse response, and the means for applying a gain characteristic comprises the means for applying a stored impulse response to the input signal.

51. (New) Apparatus for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising:

means for storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

means for repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

means for determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal;

means for applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal when the amplitude of the input signal falls between the two gain characteristics including means for interpolating between these two gain characteristics to produce a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

the system further including a manual input for a gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal.

52. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;  
determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal;  
applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal; and  
wherein the apparatus further includes means for interpolating between two or more impulse responses before applying the interpolated response to the input signal.

53. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;  
determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal;  
applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal; and  
this apparatus further including a manual input to select the impulse response to be applied.

54. (New) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;  
determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal;  
applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal, wherein the step of determining a gain characteristic comprises the step of interpolating between two gain characteristics to determine a gain characteristic to apply the input signal; and  
wherein the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic for an audio signal processor.